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are well seen from the Sandwich Mountain path; the path which gave this view was superseded and abandoned over thirty years ago. The descriptions of views from summits were not revised very thoroughly; for instance, Berlin, N. H., as seen from Mt. Washington is no longer the "white hamlet" of the description written forty years ago.

As to the method of revision, the preface states that much information available elsewhere has been omitted, namely, as to railroads, hotels, motor routes, detailed trail descriptions, history, botany, geology—"the new edition must confine itself to the functions of a modern guidebook." What are they? The reviewer believes a guidebook should supply regarding the region concerned all the information that can be packed into a volume of "handy" size, omitting *en bloc* only data already available in some other up-to-date and convenient publication. Testing this guide accordingly, for detailed trail descriptions the tourist is referred to the A. M. C. Guide—accepted as handy and up-to-date; for roads he must get the Blue Book—a bulky volume, entirely without information as to side roads; for railroads and hotels he must accumulate advertising pamphlets, consult the bulky Blue Book, and do without disinterested help; for history, botany, geology he must be content with out-of-date editions of this guide or hunt the scattered material for himself. The new edition contains no bibliography.

This method is largely a mistake. Condensed information as to railroads, roads, and hotels should be included—more or less in the Baedeker manner. It was probably wise to retain the long descriptions of views from summits, but tourists wish to know more than the names of distant peaks. The history of the region should be treated from a broader viewpoint; the biological and geological character should be sketched in from the latest studies, with glimpses of the work of glaciers and the life struggle at timber line; the economic history should have a word, with suggestion of the change from farming and trapping to hotel keeping and lumbering. Finally, much of the otherwise acceptable descriptive matter needs further revision to eliminate Victorian phraseology; and if the whole could be edited by one with a command of vigorous and vivid English it would add much to its popularity.

NATHANIEL L. GOODRICH

A JOURNEY ON THE ARCTIC COAST OF ALASKA

HUDSON STUCK. **A Winter Circuit of Our Arctic Coast: A Narrative of a Journey with Dog-Sleds Around the Entire Arctic Coast of Alaska.** x and 360 pp.; maps, ills., index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1920. \$6.00. 9 x 6 inches.

This is the late Dr. Stuck's fourth book of Alaskan travel, and we are indebted to him for all he has written. He is a keen and a painstaking observer with a literary gift that has added much to the attractive quality of his writings. This last book describes his journey westward from the Porcupine River (Fort Yukon) to Kotzebue Sound and then north and eastward along our entire Arctic coast to the north of the Arctic Circle. It was a bold undertaking carried out in the exceedingly cold winter of 1917-1918. Temperatures were down to -63° in the interior but were somewhat less severe along the coast. When the small party had to spend the night in tents, at such very low temperatures, there was no comfort and little sleep; and none but the hardest of white men could long endure it. The mean official temperatures for December and January on the Yukon were the lowest recorded in twenty years.

Dr. Stuck gives a vivid picture of Eskimo life along the coast, discussing the influence of white civilization. He denounces the government policy of permitting salmon canneries to be established at the mouth of the Yukon, thereby depriving the northern natives of much of their natural supply of food. Under this condition, he says, the government must either feed the natives or let them starve.

Among laws imposed upon the natives which Dr. Stuck regards as unwise is one requiring a license before any marriage may be solemnized. The nearest commissioner who can supply a license may be 200 to 300 miles away, and often a license cannot be procured for two or three months. Consequently the natives revert to the old state of things and live together anyhow.

Further he thinks it is not creditable to our government that on the whole Arctic coast of Alaska there is only one physician and not a nurse or a hospital. Our government is

making successful efforts to provide elementary education, but this does not excuse it for the almost total neglect of the health of the Eskimos.

On the contrary, as is well known, the importation of reindeer has proved a great success. Congress appropriated \$300,000 to buy them; and their progeny, now in Alaska, are estimated to be worth \$3,000,000.

The author's circuit is shown on an outline map of Alaska. He also reproduces Leffingwell's map (*U. S. Geol. Survey Professional Paper 109*, 1919) and pays tribute to the fine work that Leffingwell accomplished in the careful triangulation of this northern coast, "for which he must always be remembered in the annals of geography."

CYRUS C. ADAMS

HISTORY OF THE BIOGEOGRAPHICAL PROBLEM OF DISCONTINUOUS DISTRIBUTION

NILS VON HOFSTEN. **Zur älteren Geschichte des Diskontinuitätsproblems in der Biogeographie.** Index. Reprint from *Zool. Annalen*, Vol. 7, 1916, pp. 197-353. Würzburg.

This essay on the theories of the discontinuous distribution of plants and animals is limited to the living world and does not consider the life of the past ages. The presentation is clearly and interestingly written by a biologist along historical lines. It begins with the theories of the Greeks as set forth by Hippocrates and Aristotle, who thought the distribution to be due to differences in the local climates, and follows the more essential ideas down to the present time. For a while the church stimulated this research because of the riddle of the wide distribution and variability of man, but in the end it fought the conclusions of the naturalists.

Modern views began with the discovery of America, with its plants and animals which are different from those of Europe. Some continued to explain this difference by special local creations, and in fact Louis Agassiz (1850-1859) held to the creation theory to the end of his life. Buffon (1749-1756) is sometimes regarded as the originator of modern views in regard to biogeography. The way was further indicated by Cuvier (1815), Lyell (1830-1833), Heer (1845), and Forbes (1846) and was modernized by Hooker, De Candolle, Darwin, and Wallace. Now we know that the organisms are where they are because of local genetic developments out of antecedent stocks, conditioned by their variable dispersion and evolution along varying routes of travel and climate, and that this variation was brought about in the main by the geologic changes in the configuration of the land surfaces and their oceanic boundaries.

CHARLES SCHUCHERT

ROCK STRUCTURE AND LANDSCAPE FORM

KARL SAPPER. **Geologischer Bau und Landschaftsbild.** vi and 208 pp.; ills., index. *Die Wissenschaft*, Vol. 61. Friedr. Vieweg & Son, Brunswick, 1917. M. 7.20. 9 x 6 inches.

This semi-popular book, the outgrowth of lectures delivered in 1916, is the work of an experienced explorer in tropical America, Australasia, and elsewhere, who was professor of geography at the German university of Strassburg for several years up to the end of the war and who was then transferred to Würzburg. The first half of the book discusses the interaction of underground structures and surface processes in the production of the manifold landscapes of the earth; the second half is occupied with generalized descriptions of various types of landscape as affected by climate.

The first half is novel in some respects, as in giving in the introductory pages brief accounts of the odors and sounds that are associated with certain landscapes and in detailing the changes of landscape appearance under varying illumination, as at morning, noon, and evening, in clear and in stormy weather, in winter and in summer. The motive here seems to be to call attention to items that are commonly overlooked. But when we read in one passage that the chief source of illumination is the sun, by which the moon as well as the earth is lit up; in another that the change from day to night affords the maximum contrast of light and darkness; in a third that among other sources of terrestrial illumination are the aurora borealis, volcanic eruptions, lightning, and prairie fires (shooting stars are omitted); and in a fourth that fireflies and burning natural gas are generally too faint